

CLAIMS:

1. A composition, comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium:

(1) N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol; and

5 (2) hydroquinone or a derivative thereof.

2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

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3. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 2.5% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

15 4. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

20 5. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight, relative to the total

weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

7. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-  
5 aminophenol is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 2.5% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

8. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-  
10 aminophenol is included in a lamellar phase of ionic or nonionic lipid vesicles, with an oily or aqueous center.

9. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said vesicles are dispersed in an aqueous or oily phase comprising said hydroquinone or derivative thereof.

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10. The composition of Claim 8, wherein said hydroquinone, or derivative thereof, is encapsulated in said vesicles.

11. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one ingredient  
20 selected from the group consisting of UV-screening agents and desquamatory agents.

12. A method for depigmenting and/or lightening the skin, body hair, or head hair, comprising applying to the skin, body hair and/or head hair, a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium:

- (1) N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol; and
- (2) hydroquinone or a derivative thereof.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-  
5 aminophenol is present in said composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight,  
relative to the total weight of said composition.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-  
aminophenol is present in said composition in an amount of from 0.5 to 2.5% by weight,  
10 relative to the total weight of said composition.

15. The method of Claim 12, wherein said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is  
present in said composition in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by weight, relative to the total  
weight of said composition.

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16. The method of Claim 12, wherein said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is  
present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 1% by weight, relative to the total  
weight of said composition.

20 17. The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-  
aminophenol is present in said composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight,  
relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or derivative  
thereof is present in said composition in an amount of 0.1 to 2% by weight, relative to the  
total weight of said composition.

18. The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in said composition in an amount of from 0.5 to 2.5% by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or derivative thereof is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 1% by weight, relative to the 5 total weight of said composition.

19. The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is included in a lamellar phase of ionic or nonionic lipid vesicles, with an oily or aqueous center.

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20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said vesicles are dispersed in an aqueous or oily phase containing hydroquinone, or one of its derivatives.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein said hydroquinone, or derivative thereof, is 15 encapsulated in said vesicles.

22. The method of Claim 12, wherein said composition further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of UV-screening agents and desquamatory agents.

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